

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 7, lines 1-10, amend the paragraph as follows:

With initial reference to Figs. 1 and 5, the device comprises a supporting structure (1) for a flexible member (3) and a motor (5) which operates and keeps it in movement at a constant speed  $V_1$ . The numbers (2) and (4) indicate the drive wheels of the flexible ~~member~~ member (3) which, in the example shown is constituted by a single belt. The belt has a pair of lips (3A, 3B) parallel to each other and extending along the entire longitudinal extension of the flexible member (3), the form of which is visible in a cross section in Fig. 5. The two lips (3A, 3B) may be produced in a softer material with a greater friction coefficient than the material constituting the body of the belt (3), to obtain sufficient grip on the rolls and trimmings without damaging the rolls.

Page 7, lines 24-30, amend the paragraph as follows:

As shown clearly in Fig. 5, in the example shown the fixed longitudinal element (13) is positioned under the flexible member (3) and substantially aligned with it on a vertical plane, which also constitutes the median plane of

the rolls (R) and the trimmings (Rft, Rfc,) fed along the feed path (12). The distance between the flexible member (3) and the fixed longitudinal element (~~11~~ 13) is such that the rolls (R) fed along the path (12) are in contact with the lips (3A, 3B) and with the upper surface of the fixed longitudinal element (13).

Page 8, lines 13-20, amend the paragraph as follows:

In the example shown, the fixed longitudinal element (13) has a laminar shape, with a rounded upper surface (13S) on which the rolls (R) rest and a thickness slightly ~~lower~~ less than the width (~~1~~ l) of the slot or groove (15C) produced in the pushers (15), so that the fixed longitudinal element can penetrate without friction through the slot (15C). Moreover, in the area facing the channel or guide (11) the fixed longitudinal element (13) is rounded at the bottom (13A) to facilitate travel of the pushers (15) when they rotate around the axis of the wheel (20).

Page 8, lines 23-30, amend the paragraph as follows:

As shown in Fig. 2, each pusher (15) ~~pulls~~ pushes a series of rolls (R) and respective head and tail trimmings (Rft, Rfc) along the fixed guide (11) at the speed  $V_2$ ; these rolls and trimmings are obtained by cutting a log (L) in the

cutting machine upstream, shown only schematically in Fig. 2 and indicated therein with (T), through which the guide extends (11). The cutting machine shown as an example is of the type comprising an arm rotating around an axis (A) and carrying a disc cutter (U) rotating around its own axis and thus orbiting around the axis (A).

Page 9, lines 11-28, amend the paragraph as follows:

When the trimmings and rolls come into contact with the fixed longitudinal element (13), as well as with the flexible member (3), forces are exerted on them to produce torques that attain the result of discharging the trimmings from the path (12) so that only the rolls (R) are delivered from the channel (11) to the conveyer (16). Fig. 6 schematically shows how the trimmings are eliminated, with reference to the head trimming (Rft). The head trimming (Rft) and the subsequent roll (R) are on the one side pushed with a force (F1, F1') by the upper flexible member (3), through the effect of the friction force between it and the wound web material, and on the other are subjected to sliding friction (F2, F2') which develops through sliding on the fixed longitudinal element (13). The different direction and the different points in which the results of these forces are applied determines a torque that tends to

overturn both the rolls and the trimmings. However, in the case of the rolls, their greater longitudinal dimensions causes the onset of constraining reactions (R1, R2), the intensity and distribution of which produce a torque capable of opposing overturning. This does not occur in the trimmings due to their lower axial dimension. The constraining reactions do not ~~produced~~ produce sufficient torque to balance the overturning torque.

Page 10, lines 11-16, amend the paragraph as follows:

The spacing between the head and tail trimmings and adjacent rolls, obtained thanks to the difference between the speeds  $V_1$  ~~e~~ and  $V_2$ , guarantees in any case elimination of the trimmings which otherwise could remain resting against the adjacent roll. This is particularly true for the head trimming which could reach the conveyor (16) without overturning through the effect of the thrust of the first roll (R) of the series.

Page 10, lines 17-23, amend the paragraph as follows:

In an alternative configuration, shown in section in Fig. 7, the fixed longitudinal element (13') and the flexible member (3'), ~~again indicated with (13) and (3)~~ ~~respectively~~, are positioned on any chord of the front

section of the rolls and at a distance from the vertical line of symmetry of this section so that the pusher (~~15~~ 15') in its action to feed the rolls to the path (12) between the flexible member (~~3~~ 3') and the fixed longitudinal element (~~13~~ 13') does not interfere with them.

Page 10, lines 24-32, amend the paragraph as follows:

In this case retention of the rolls by the fixed longitudinal element (~~13~~ 13') and the flexible member (~~3~~ 3') is not optimum, as these elements are not vertically overlapping. Moreover, the plate ~~15B~~ (15B') of the pusher (15') must have a reduced diameter in order to pass under the fixed longitudinal element (~~13~~ 13') when it has to pass from the upper section to the lower section of the chain path (17). Also, the slit or groove is eliminated from the leg (15A') of the pusher (15'). This makes operation of the device less reliable. It must also be said that in this configuration adaptation to different diameters of the rolls requires adjustment both of the flexible member (~~3~~ 3') and of the fixed longitudinal element (~~13~~ 13').

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Page 11, lines 8-13, amend the paragraph as follows:

It is understood that the drawing only shows a possible embodiment of the invention, which may vary in forms and arrangements without, however, departing from the scope of the concept underlying the invention. Any reference numerals in the attached claims are provided for the sole purpose of facilitating reading in ~~the~~ light of the description hereinbefore and the attached drawings and do not limit the scope of protection.